

Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 ABF-01 A-01

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R 191157Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL TANGIER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3072
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL SEVILLE

UNCLAS TANGIER 0210

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, CASC, CGEN, MO, SP
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY BRITISH CONSUL
IN CEUTA

1. BRITISH CONSUL IN CEUTA, JOSEPH IMOSSI, HAS CALLED ON ME TO REQUEST USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIS OFFICE IN THE SPANISH ENCLAVE. IMOSSI ARGUED MOST FORCEFULLY THAT WITH THE SUMMER TOURIST SEASON FAST APPROACHING, LARGE NUMBERS OF AMCITS WILL, AS USUAL, TELEPHONE OR VISIT HIS OFFICE REQUESTING INFORMATION AND PROTECTION AND WELFARE ASSISTANCE. FURTHER, HE SAID, GOS AUTHORITIES ARE TURNING INCREASINGLY TO HIM, NOT ONLY AS FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN CONSULAR CASES INVOLVING AMCITS, BUT AS THE ONLY EXPERIENCED CONSULAR OFFICIAL IN THE ENCLAVE WHO CAN PROVIDE TRANSLATION SERVICES AND ONGOING CONTACT WITH CONGENS TANGIER AND SEVILLE.

2. SPECIFICALLY, IMOSSI ASKED FOR A MODEST USG CONTRIBUTION OF DOLS 120 PER MONTH FOR THE FOUR BUSY MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. THIS SUM WOULD PERMIT HIM TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL OFFICE EMPLOYEE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF AMCITS DURING THEER WHICH CANNOT BE IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED TO BY CONGENS TANGIER OR SEVILLE. FRANCE AND BELGIUM, WHOM IMOSSI REPRESENTS AS HONORARY CONSUL, HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO PAY FOR ADDITIONAL CLERICAL ASSISTANCE THIS SUMMER, IMOSSI SAID.

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TWO MILLION PERSONS VISITED CEUTA IN 1974, MOSTLY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS WAS 50 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1973, AND IMOSSI, AS THE ONLY FOREIGN CONSUL, FINDS THAT ALL NON-SPANISH VISITORS TURN TO HIM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.

3. IMOSSI'S PLEA STRUCK A SYMPATHETIC CHORD HERE. THIS OFFICE CAN ATTEST THAT WHENEVER AN AMCIT HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTY IN CEUTA, IMOSSI HAS VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT CHARGE ASSISTED THEM. BY HIS OWN ACCOUNT HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY ASSISTED MANY OTHERS ON MATTERS ABOUT WHICH THERE HAS BEEN NO NEED TO CONTACT CONGENS TANGIER OR SEVILLE. AS IMOSSI LEFT, HE REPEATED HIS PLEA FOR FUNDS AND SAID WITH REGRET THAT HE JUST COULD NOT CONTINUE TO RENDER THE ASSISTANCE HE HAS GIVEN IN THE PAST WITHOUT SOME HELP FROM US. I TOLD HIM THAT HIS HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. I EXPLAINED THAT THE CONGEN LACKED AUTHORITY TO ACT DIRECTLY ON HIS REQUEST, BUT PROMISED I WOULD APPROACH THE RESPONSIBLE USG AUTHORITIES AND INFORM HIM OF THEIR DECISION SOONEST.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CONSIDERATION AND RESPONSE IS REQUESTED. A FAVORABLE DECISION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.EASTMAN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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